Agreements with 96 countries, under which traffic rights have been granted to foreign airlines for operating international services to/ from India. Actual operations are decided by foreign airlines according to their commercial judgement and comparative yields on different routes. No special restrictions as such have been placed on operation of foreign airlines who have traffic rights from their country and wants to operate to India. While some airlines have recently curtailed/withdrawn their services, some other airlines have also commenced their services to India. Presently a total of 50 foreign airlines are operating scheduled international services to/ from India.

IA services to Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia

3084. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines are contemplating to start its services to Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia;

(b) whether Government have sanctioned these flights; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN):(a) to (c) Indian Airlines is not designated to operate services to Saudi Arabia. Although Indian Airlines has been designated for operating services to Hong Kong, they are yet to start operations. Air India is already operating to Hongkong.

Training to Pilots

3085. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to send pilots to England for training;

(b) if so, the details thereof;